

YOU CAN'T SPELL "EARMARK" WITHOUT AN "R"

While Republicans Try to Remake Themselves as the Party of Fiscal Discipline, Their History of Out-of-Control Spending Proves Otherwise

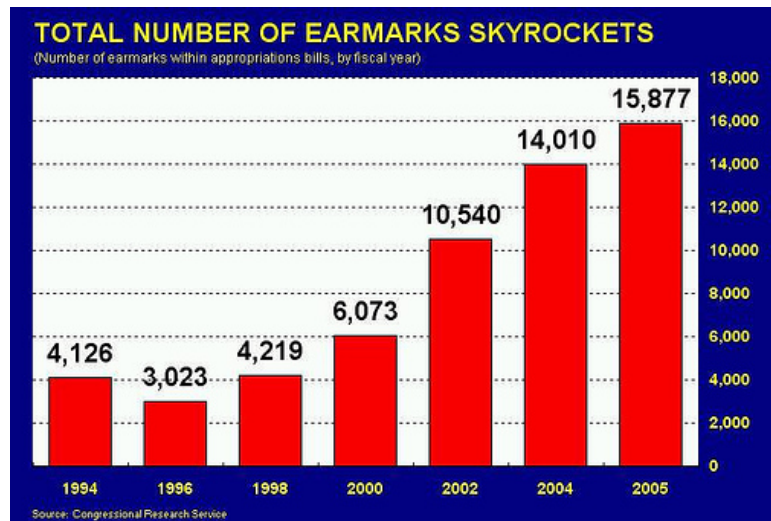
As the House begins debate on the FY09 Consolidated Appropriations Act this week, Republicans are continuing to try to sweep their history under the rug and convince the American people that they are committed to fiscal responsibility. But their record on earmarks, and the amount of earmarks contained in the omnibus appropriations bill make it clear that Republicans are just using this as another political ploy:

- **40%** of the earmarks in the omnibus appropriations bill are **Republican earmarks**
- The earmarks in the omnibus appropriations bill total **less than 1% of the budget**
- Earmarks were reduced by 43% last year, and the omnibus appropriations bill **reduces earmarks by another 5%**

Use of Earmarks Exploded Under Republican Control

Earmarks exploded under GOP control. Under Republican leadership, the cost of earmarks quadrupled, including massive increases to the following bills:

- Labor-Health-Education Appropriations:
 - Under Democrats in 1995: Virtually none
 - Under Republicans in 2000: 491 earmarks
 - **Under Republicans, in 2006: 3,031 earmarks totaling \$1.2 billion**
- Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Economic Development Initiatives:
 - Under Democrats, FY95: 265 earmarks
 - **Under Republicans, FY06: 1,176 earmarks**
- Highway Authorization Bill
 - From 1956-1990: 739 earmarks
 - **Under Republicans in 2005 ALONE: 5,000 earmarks, totaling \$24 billion**



Democrats Remain Committed To Continued Earmark Reform

In January, at the beginning of the 111th Congress, House Democrats continued their commitment to strong accountability and transparency by passing additional earmark reforms, including:

- Requiring all Members' requests for earmarks to also be publicly disclosed (Beginning with FY10 bills)
- Requiring even earlier public disclosure, by requiring all earmark disclosures to be made public the same day that the subcommittee reports the bill (Beginning with FY10 bills)
- Reducing earmarks by more than 43 percent below the FY06 level. For the FY10 bills, earmark funding levels will be reduced to 50 percent below the FY06 level

In the 110th Congress, House Democrats passed strong earmark reform and reduced the dollar amount going to earmarks by more than 43 percent below the FY06 level. The new rules included:

- Requiring Members to disclose their earmarks in bills
- Requiring Members to certify that they and their spouses have no personal financial interest in the request
- Requiring committees of jurisdiction and conference committees to publish lists of the earmarks contained in the reported bills, unreported bills, manager's amendments, and conference reports brought to the House Floor; a Member may make a point of order against consideration of any rule that waives this requirement